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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

EUROPEAN SERVICE

Before the echoes of our work in preparing nurses for Mexico had died away, came the war in Europe. At a meeting of the War Relief Board on August 5, it was decided to offer a unit of twelve nurses and three physicians to each of the European nations now at war. At once the local committees in New York, Boston, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Jersey, Rochester, Buffalo and Albany were asked to call for volunteers for this service. As the expedition was to sail from New York these places were selected in order to avoid the cost of transportation from the points farther distant, and have nurses available in the event of their being called at an early date. Later when it was found necessary to send a larger number, calls were sent to Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Connecticut and Washington, D. C. The Manhattan Committee was asked to select two units, or 24 nurses; Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Connecticut, each one unit of twelve nurses; New Jersey, Rochester, Albany, Buffalo, each five nurses, to be combined into one unit, and with those from Washington, D. C., leave some available for an emergency.

The response was prompt and the committees have coöperated splendidly in order to carry out the details planned at headquarters. Letters from nurses scattered through the country have come to headquarters asking to join the relief corps, and from various committees saying they were ready to call for volunteers. It was necessary to have a physical examination and vaccination for smallpox and typhoid. Owing to the fact that the service would undoubtedly be a hard one, the physical examination eliminated many who would be eligible for Red Cross duty at another time, as it did not seem fair to advise any nurse to go when there was the least possibility of her being ill. It was also necessary to eliminate many because it seemed wise to select only native-born American citizens, as passports had to be provided for them. Even with all these reasons for rejecting many fine women, there are still a number of those chosen who speak various European languages, and many who have given up good positions to join this

expedition. The New York Department of Health and some institutions decided that any of their force desiring to go could be reinstated on their return if they so desire.

As it was impossible to say how long this corps would be needed, a circular letter was sent to each nurse saying she might, if transportation could be secured, return at any time, but if she returned before the expiration of six months the return journey would be at her own expense.

As there was sure to be a good deal of expense attached to the preparations for an extended absence like this, the Red Cross is providing a large part of the equipment necessary. The canvas bag provided for each nurse was furnished with three bags made of an artistic cretonne, one for shoes, one for laundry, and a work bag, containing scissors, needles, cotton, buttons, and a piece of the uniform material.

Nurses were mobilized in New York with headquarters at the Central Club for Nurses, 54 East 34th Street, and uniforms and equipment were distributed from the headquarters of the New York Chapter, 130 East 22d Street.

It is quite possible that more nurses will be needed later, and this will afford an opportunity for many of those volunteers from other points than the places called upon for this contingent.

The expedition sailed on September 12 on the *Red Cross*, formerly a boat of the Hamburg American Line and will carry two units for England, two for France, one for Belgium, two for Russia, two for Germany, one for Austria.

On September 8 an additional unit for Servia, with Mary E. Gladwin as supervisor, sailed for some point in Greece.

EQUIPMENT

Instructions for Nurses Selected for Service in Europe

Carry, if possible, a sufficient supply of clothing for a month or six weeks in light-weight suit case or telescope bag. A canvas bag will be supplied to each nurse by the Red Cross in which additional clothing may be taken. To avoid loss these bags will be plainly marked "American Red Cross" and no other luggage except such as can be carried by the nurse will be allowed. These bags will be distributed by local committees.

The Red Cross badge should be worn and appointment card, together with white immunity certificate, carried in purse or other safe place.

All articles and clothing, including shoes and traveling bag are to be plainly marked with owner's full name.

The following articles will be furnished in New York City by the Red Cross free of charge to nurses assigned to European service: six grey chambray uniforms, twelve white aprons, six collars, four caps, brassard, uniform cape, uniform hat, wool sweater, work, shoe and laundry bags, steamer rug.

The above equipment is to remain the property of the Red Cross, and is to be returned on completion of service.

Equipment to be Supplied by Nurse

Plain traveling suit with two or three shirtwaists; rubbers, raincoat and umbrella; black high shoes, or four-eyelet ties should be worn, with low heels and broad soles; warm underwear, not more than four suits; three colored cotton petticoats; four corset covers, preferably cotton crepe; three or four nightgowns, preferably outing-flannel; warm dressing gown and bedroom slippers; one small bath towel and two hand towels; extra pair of corsets; extra pair of shoes; roll of absorbent gauze and roll of absorbent cotton from which sanitary napkins may be made; box of foot powder; cake of Dr. Johnson's foot soap; box of small round corn plasters or a small roll of adhesive plaster from which corn plaster may be cut; cold cream; simple cathartic, such as cascara; individual drinking cup; hypodermic set; two thermometers (clinical); bandage scissors.

If glasses are worn, an additional pair should be taken.

If necessary, see a dentist before leaving home.

As a matter of protection nurses will be expected to wear their uniform on shipboard, and so far as can be determined at all other times while serving under the Red Cross in Europe. It will, therefore, be unnecessary for them to take any gowns except those indicated in the above instructions.

LIST OF NURSES ASSIGNED TO EUROPEAN SERVICE

General Superintendent of Nurses, Helen Scott Hay; Supervising Nurses: Anna Reutinger and Lucy Minnegerode, Manhattan; Frances H. Meyer, Brooklyn; Margaret Lehmann, Philadelphia; Donna G. Burger, Boston; Alice C. Beattie, Cleveland; Alice E. Henderson, Baltimore; Charlotte Burgess, Chicago; J. Beatrice Bowman, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps; Elizabeth Dooley, Cincinnati.

Manhattan (New York City): Mary F. Farley, Frieda L. Hartman, Blanche Horner, Helen Linderman, Helen G. Northwood, Sophia V. Kiel,

Rachel C. Torrance, Emogene E. Miles, Maud H. Metcalf, R. Lee Cromwell, Henrietta K. Koechlein, Mary M. A. Weiss, Carolyn W. Bell, Bertha H. Becht, Mary A. Brownell, Dorothea Mann, Claudia M. O'Neill, Lily M. McEnany.

Brooklyn, N. Y.: Lillian L. Halliday, Alice B. W. Weston, Sarah A. McCarron, Esther Rosenberg, Louisa E. Siegel, Margaret G. Egan, Margaret A. Pepper, Florence Farmer.

Chicago, Ill.: Eva L. Doniat, Alice Gilborne, Alma E. Foerster, Martha M. Moritz, Anne Hansen, Edwina Klee, Gertrude G. Hard, Julia S. Schneider, Mary F. Bowman, Mary E. Hill, Charlotte Eaton, Lyda W. Anderson, Genevieve Dyer.

Boston, Mass.: Margaret A. G. Hickey, Mabelle S. Welsh, Louisa A. Bennett, Mary T. McCarthy, Anna Agnes Carney, Kathryn J. Ulmer, Ellen T. Riley, Anna S. Barclay, Grace K. Perkins, Frances B. Latimer.

Baltimore, Md.: Mary M. Boyle, Margaret W. McGary, Florence M. Waters, Grace D. Barclay, Rebecca Watson, Sydney A. Lewis, Elizabeth W. Riffel, Helen Covey, Sarah W. Crosley, Sara V. Case, Martha Hartman.

Philadelphia, Pa.: Mary Graham, Anna E. Goertz, Faye L. Fulton, Florence M. Snyder, Anna C. Lofving, Leslie Wentzel, Agnes E. Jacobs, Mary A. Mulcahy, Mary C. McNelis, Martha L. Henderson, Emma B. Loose.

Cleveland, Ohio: Ava P. Mautner, Claribel Schofield, Katherine Volk, Mollie McKenney, Margaret McGuire, Minnie Bowman, Rosina Volk, Clara P. Reynolds, Nettie Eisenhard, Grace Bentley, Katrina E. Hertzner.

New Jersey: S. Louise Stone, Hattie B. Moore, Grace Wilday, Linda K. Meirs, Margaret B. Purvis, Ellen Jane Thomas.

Buffalo, N. Y.: Virginia A. Rau, Edna Reese, Elizabeth I. Welsch, Margaret A. Strycker, Margaret Hennessey.

Rochester, N. Y.: Elizabeth Weber, Adeline Thomas, Eleanor M. Scott, Jessie T. Parsons, Minnie Mason.

Washington, D. C.: Reba J. Taylor, Clarice Buhrman, Harriet P. Hankins, Helena A. Fitz.

Cincinnati, Ohio: Mary E. Minshall, Ella Weimann, Lulu B. Martin, Cynthia Richardson, Anna Sutter, Margaret J. Leonard, Ella Kathleen Hoff, Anna Domershausen, Bertha M. Butterfield, Margaret Bodkin.

Connecticut: Lucie E. Bartram, Nellie M. Strong, Emma Evers.

NURSES ASSIGNED TO DUTY IN SERVIA

Mary E. Gladwin, supervisor; Mary F. Keller, Esmeé Everard, Helen F. Kerrigen, Helen L. Smith, Anna Hirsbrunner, Agnes J. Gardner, Augusta M. Condit, Nell F. Steel, Ida F. Lusk, Stella M. Hall, Lucy E. Bartram.

THE SALEM FIRE

On June 25 came the Salem fire, and on June 26, when the city was put under martial law, the Boston Red Cross committee was requested to take charge of the nursing work. Five "posts" had been established with medical officers in charge and the committee assigned nurses to each of these posts. The largest of these was Forest River Park Camp, where two thousand five hundred people were sheltered in tents for the first of the six weeks that this post was maintained. This number was gradually reduced by housing being found in adjoining cities, until during the last two weeks but three or four hundred remained in the camp.

Bertram Field, a baseball field, sheltered in tents for the first week one thousand eight hundred to two thousand people. A maternity hospital was established in the Unitarian Church on Essex Street, and a Milk and Baby Hygiene station as well as a Contagious Hospital. Nurses were kept at all these stations until conditions gradually approached normal, when one post after another was closed.

At the largest post, Forest River Park Camp, where there were one hundred and twenty-five bottle-fed babies and five hundred children, not one case of intestinal disease was reported.

At the maternity hospital station, several births occurred, some operative cases, and some opthalmia which had to be isolated and "specialled."

Nurses were on duty from June 26 to August 12, by which time the posts had been reduced to one, Forest River Park Camp, and the nursing therefore was left in the hands of five nurses, two Red Cross and three volunteers, all residents of Salem.

It seems little understood that this Salem fire disaster has given an opportunity for a great demonstration of preventive medicine. It was necessary to have this opportunity to demonstrate the fact that so many thousands of homeless persons, more than five hundred of whom were infants and children, could be sheltered in tents, at first without adequate sewerage or sanitary conveniences, with all that goes to make for sickness and yet not one case of illness occurred as the result of the fire, and this largely because of the prompt and efficient

work of the Red Cross Nurse Corps. "The preventive measures adopted by the nursing service and the eternal vigilance pursued is the price of the freedom from illness, and the consequent expense and devastation."

The nurses who were on duty at Salem were: Dr. Laura A. C. Hughes, supervisor; Jennie R. Dix, in charge at headquarters; Margaret Fallon, Bridget Regan, Alice Savage, Mabel S. Welsh, chief nurses; Sarah Beatty, Mary Buckley, Laura F. Carney, Alice Cardall, Ellen C. Daly, Elizabeth C. Fairbanks, Katherine Fitzgerald, Edna Harrison, Edith Leonard, Melda McDonald, Julia May Leach, Florence MacDonald, Marion Manague, Ursula C. Noyes, Agnes Nolan, Minerva Peckham, Josephine Sheppherd, Katherine Walsh.

THE G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT

In the last week of August the G. A. R. Encampment was held in Detroit, when arrangements were made by the local committee to provide nurses for twenty-eight Red Cross relief stations during the entire week. One hundred nurses were on duty, twenty-five of these being Red Cross nurses, the others volunteers from the city and vicinity. As there were between thirty and forty thousand visitors and veterans, these relief stations were of great assistance in rendering prompt and temporary aid.